

# County Line

News from the Government Offices of Lumpkin County, Georgia

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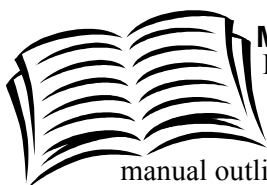
May 2006



## Stretching the Dollars

When it comes to stretching taxpayer dollars, it's not only the major changes that get results. "Small changes can add up to big savings over time," says county manager Stan Kelley. In fact, saving money by making what he calls "changes within the operation," such as policy changes, contract reviews, and creating a culture that favors saving money, has been a goal of his since he became county manager last year. "I'm pleased our efforts are paying off," says Stan, who plans to develop an incentive plan that taps into employees' ideas for saving taxpayer money. Here are some ways the thrifty thinking is paying off for the county now:

- Changing to an access code system for long distance service through provider Lightyear has reduced phone bills from around \$1,200 to about \$800 a month. Personal identification numbers help staff be more accountable for phone use and help departments better manage costs.
- Detailed review of Sprint/Nextel plan options has meant about 7 percent savings a month on county cell phone bills.
- Renegotiation of the Ikon contract netted more and newer copy machines and printers, better technology and increased productivity, along with annual savings of about \$5,600.
- Getting out of the gas station business and going to a fleet card system through Right Express is saving \$4,000 to 5,000 a month on fuel costs. When the county maintenance shop was relocated earlier this year, installing fuel tanks at the Red Oak Flats Road facility didn't make sense. With the fleet card system, the county gets state contracted fuel prices, along with better security, employee accountability and vehicle tracking. Detailed activity reports allow for improved budgeting while monthly invoicing lowers administrative costs.
- Satisfied after working with Anderson Computer and Networking Services on a "crisis-to-crisis" basis for a year, the county now contracts with the Dahlonega company for information technology services for most departments. A set monthly rate, plus a discounted hourly rate after a certain number of hours, allows the county to budget and control tech costs, rather than just react to problems. Over time, this will mean more standardized, compatible equipment, better specifications for purchases, lower maintenance costs and less employee downtime.



## Manual Labor

Lumpkin County adopted the civil service system in 1996, but the manual outlining it saw few revisions over the years, despite big changes in employment law. Enter: Fran Sullens, 2004, the county's first human resources director. It didn't take long for Fran to make updating the Civil Service Manual a priority. With support and help at the county and state levels, she pressed through the project for over a year, reaching her goal this spring. Following the commissioners' adoption of the document, it will be distributed to elected officials, department heads and employees so everyone knows what to expect. "This is a fundamental part of a personnel policy," Fran says, "intended to ensure a fair, equitable and productive work environment for all employees covered."

## Recycling: Trash to Cash



With its new Recycling Center on Red Oak Flats Road open, Lumpkin County is getting serious about recycling. Recyclables are accepted at the new center, where they're also baled for sale, and in new, bright blue drop-off bins in the Subway parking lot near GA 400/60 and on Highway 19 North near the high school. Recyclables are still accepted at the transfer station on Barlow Road, where the materials all go, unsorted, into a single collection trailer. At the other locations, materials must be separated by type before going into bins. Materials are sold by the ton; sorted and baled materials earn much more than "co-mingled" product. Proceeds go back into the county's recycling program. A member of the North Georgia Resource Management Authority, Lumpkin pools recyclables with Union, Towns and Banks

## Outstanding Employees Named

He's friendly, polite, dedicated, honest—and humble. And he's a heck of a one-man maintenance crew. No wonder Henry Grizzle, who handles upkeep and repairs for county buildings with help from inmate trustees, was named Lumpkin County's all-around 2005 Employee of the Year. County commissioners and county manager Stan Kelley recognized Henry and others for service in 2005 at a recent board meeting. Others honored were: Shane Black (Fire Department), William Martin (EMS) and Sheila Pace (911 Communications). County employees nominated for honors also were recognized: Cindy Foley (Elections Office), Frances French (Planning), Donald Garrett (Roads) and Susan O'Brien (Parks and Recreation). The Rotary Club of Dahlonega also had recognized the County Employees of the Year, as well as Lumpkin County Sheriff's Deputy Lt. Matt Hester, at its annual Vocational Service Award ceremony.



## Recycle This!

**Mixed Paper:** If you can tear it, they can take it. Copy paper, newspaper, magazines, catalogs, fliers, direct mail pieces, as well as paperboard, like cereal and drink boxes. Don't bundle or leave in plastic bags.

**Aluminum Cans:** Rinse and flatten. Deposit loose cans—no bags or other containers.

**#1 & #2 Plastics:** Find the numbers inside the "triangle of arrows" on the bottom of plastics. Includes soft drink, juice and water bottles, cooking oil bottles and peanut butter jars, milk jugs, detergent and bleach bottles. Rinse and remove lids.

**Corrugated Cardboard:** The brown, packing kind, clean and dry, flattened or broken down.

**NEVER LEAVE HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE AT RECYCLING SITES!**

to reach volumes needed to negotiate the best prices. This is the state's first regional recycling program. Keep Our Mountains Beautiful provides the educational component of the program, presenting programs to students, civic clubs and other groups. For details, visit [www.ngrma.org](http://www.ngrma.org) or call (706) 864-3742.

# Lumpkin County . . . continued from reverse side

## Granting Wishes

Lumpkin County's project wish list is long, and grants are a big part of today's efforts to get the most wishes granted. Here's a summary of recent grant activity from grant analyst Mark French:

- Phase I of the Yahoola Creek Trails project opened this spring with help from a \$100,000 grant from the Department of Natural Resources. The project features about a mile of wildflower-laced nature trails, a bog garden, an information kiosk, two pavilions and two composting toilets. Funding already has been approved for Phase II, now in the design stage.

- Lumpkin County's Recycling Program got a major boost thanks to the North Georgia Resource Management Authority and \$300,000 worth of grants from the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority.



The grant monies funded the new facility, drop-off bins and a collection truck.

- A \$40,000

Transportation

Enhancement grant from the Department of Transportation will help dress up the 400 corridor and GA 400/60 intersection over the next 18 months with landscaping and signage.

- Application has been made with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for a \$500,000 grant to help build a new Health Department facility.

- Application has been made with the Federal Emergency Management Agency for \$267,210 for needed fire department equipment.

- An application for a \$75,000 development grant from the Department of Community Affairs in conjunction with the federal Housing and Urban Development agency (HUD) for homeless shelter development will be submitted this summer.

## Of Primary Concern

Primary elections will be July 18. Here are some notes to remember:

**June 5-July 14**—In-person Absentee voting will be at the Mountain Education Center, 123 Mountain View Dr., Room 523 (between 6<sup>th</sup> grade gym and cafeteria). For no-excuse mail-in Absentee voting, request an application at the elections office in the courthouse or visit [www.sos.state.ga.us/elections](http://www.sos.state.ga.us/elections).

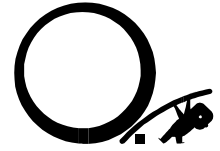


**June 19**—Last day to register to vote in the July 18 General Primary and August 8 Primary Runoff.

**July 10-July 14**—Advance voting at the Mountain Education Center.

### Voting location change:

Dahlonega County precinct now votes at the Mountain Education Center. Questions about voting? Don't wait to ask. Stop by the elections office, call (706) 864-6279 or visit [www.sos.state.ga.us/cgi-bin/locator.asp](http://www.sos.state.ga.us/cgi-bin/locator.asp). Learn more at Registrar, [www.lumpkincounty.gov](http://www.lumpkincounty.gov).



## Working for You!

If you have a problem, question or concern involving your county government, answers and assistance are as close as your phone or computer. For contact information for county departments or commissioners, see Dept. and Contact Info., [www.lumpkincounty.gov](http://www.lumpkincounty.gov) or call (706) 864-3742.

## County Commission

Steve Gooch, Chairman  
Dr. John Raber, District 1  
Deborah Hutcheson, District 2  
Clarence Stowers, District 3  
Marvin Martin, District 4

Stan Kelley  
County Manager

Lumpkin County  
99 Courthouse Hill  
Dahlonega,  
Georgia 30533  
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## Veterans Affairs' Affairs

The Lumpkin County Veterans Affairs Committee is organizing a Veterans Day Parade in Dahlonega. Volunteers are needed to help plan the event. Call Dan Rhodes at (706) 265-9687. Also, local veterans from all branches of service are invited to volunteer with the Forsyth County-based Veterans Alliance Honor Guard, a pool of veterans who perform color guard and honor guard activities for patriotic ceremonies and military funerals. Substantial free time and commitment needed. Call Wayne Cantrell at 678-773-8346.



## \$40,000 Or Bust!

The Lumpkin County Parks and Recreation Department has only until September to raise \$40,000—the local matching funds needed to bring home a \$40,000 contribution from The Timken Foundation, an independent foundation supporting projects in communities hosting Timken Co. manufacturing plants. The matching grant offer is in addition to a large gift from Timken last fall. The money will fund a pavilion and

playground to complement future athletic fields, walking trails and picnic shelters at

Yahoola Creek Park. "This project isn't just for families whose kids play park and rec sports," says department director Rob Staples. "It's a community project. We're counting on individuals, businesses and civic groups to help pull this off." For details, to make a donation or arrange a presentation to your group, call (706) 864-3622.



## Beat the Heat

The community pool is open! Hours: noon to 6pm Monday-Saturday and 1pm to 5pm Sunday. \$3 for ages 18 and up, \$2 for ages 17 and under; kids under 3 swim free. Ask about season passes and swimming lessons. Why not rent the pool for your private party? Call (706) 864-3622 for details.

## Kids Love Summer Camp

Swimming, games, arts and crafts, movies, field trips and more. Lumpkin County Parks and Recreation Summer Camp has this and more for rising first through eighth graders. For fees and details call (706) 864-3622 or visit the park and rec link at [www.lumpkincounty.gov](http://www.lumpkincounty.gov).